

## Message Text

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TAGS: MASS,

SUBJECT: NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL ON LIFTING THE CONGRESSIONAL ARMS EMBARGO ON TURKEY

THE FOLLOWING EDITORIAL FROM THE JULY 23 NEW YORK TIMES REGARDING THE EMBARGO ON ARMS SHIPMENTS TO TURKEY IS QUOTED FOR YOUR INFORMATION. THE EDITORIAL SOMEWHAT RELUCTANTLY ENDORSES THE COMPROMISE PROPOSAL PARTIALLY LIFTING THE CONGRESSIONAL EMBARGO ON ARMS SHIPMENTS TO TURKEY.

BEGIN TEXT.

THE HOUSE IS EXPECTED TO VOTE TODAY OR TOMORROW ON A COMPROMISE PROPOSAL FOR A PARTIAL LIFTING OF THE CONGRESSIONAL EMBARGO ON ARMS SHIPMENTS TO TURKEY. THE EMBARGO, IN EFFECT SINCE FEBRUARY, HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN TWICE SUSPENDED BY CONGRESS FOR SEVERAL MONTHS TO ADVANCE A SETTLEMENT OF THE DANGEROUS QUARREL BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY - BUT WITHOUT SUCCESS.

FURTHERMORE, AMERICAN PRESSURE LED TO COUNTER-PRESSURE. TURKEY HAS CALLED FOR DISCUSSIONS ON THE FUTURE OF ABOUT

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20 AMERICAN BASES, OF IMPORTANCE TO NATO AND TO THE

MONITORING OF SOVIET MISSILE SHOTS AND VERIFICATION OF THE STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TREATY (SALT) WITH MOSCOW.

THE SENATE HAS VOTED BY A NARROW MARGIN TO LIFT THE TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO COMPLETELY. BUT A HOUSE MAJORITY AND MANY OTHERS WHO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE PRESENT IMPASSE ARE RIGHTLY UNWILLING TO GO THAT FAR, REMEMBERING TURKEY'S ILLEGAL USE OF AMERICAN-MADE ARMS IN HER INVASION OF CYPRUS LAST YEAR AND RELUCTANCE TO WITHDRAW SUBSTANTIALLY FROM OCCUPIED AREAS OF CYPRUS.

TWO FORMER AMERICAN MEDIATORS IN THE CYPRUS DISPUTE - GEORGE BALL AND CYRUS VANCE - HAVE SUGGESTED WAYS TO RESUME ARMS SHIPMENTS NOW WHILE LINKING THEIR CONTINUATION LATER TO PROGRESS IN THE CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS. WITHOUT SUCH A LINK, THEY FEAR AN UNFAVORABLE IMPACT ON THE DEMOCRATIC GREEK GOVERNMENT AND AN OPEN DOOR FOR MISUSE OF AMERICAN ARMS BY OTHER NATIONS, BESIDES TURKEY, COMMITTED TO EMPLOY AMERICAN-SUPPLIED ARMS ONLY FOR DEFENSIVE PURPOSES. IT IS VITAL THAT THIS LATTER PRINCIPLE NOT BE FURTHER UNDERMINED BY WHATEVER NEW ARRANGEMENT IS REACHED ON THE TURKISH EMBARGO.

THE COMPROMISE PROPOSAL NOW PENDING BEFORE THE HOUSE IS MUCH MORE RESTRICTIVE THAN THAT ORIGINALLY AGREED ON BY PRESIDENT FORD AND THE HOUSE LEADERSHIP, BUT ITS LINK TO RESUMPTION OF THE CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS IS LESS DIRECT THAN THAT IN THE BALL-VANCE PROPOSALS. THE HOUSE BILL WOULD CONTINUE TO BAR FURTHER GRANT AID TO TURKEY AS

WELL AS DELIVERY OF GRANT AID ALREADY AUTHORIZED. THE EMBARGO WOULD BE LIFTED PRIMARILY TO PERMIT DELIVERY OF CASH AND CREDIT ARMS " IN THE PIPELINE", ARMS FOR WHICH TURKEY ALREADY HAS CONTRACTED, MORE THAN THREE-FIFTHS OF WHICH HAS BEEN PAID FOR.

BUT TURKEY WOULD BE DENIED FURTHER CASH OR CREDIT PURCHASES THROUGH THE PENTAGON-S ARMS SALES PROGRAM. UNLESS SUCH SALES WERE TO BE SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED BY UNCLASSIFIED

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CONGRESS IN THE NEXT FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT, TURKEY WOULD

ONLY BE ABLE TO MAKE DIRECT COMMERCIAL PURCHASES ON ITS OWN, A DIFFICULT AND LITTLE-TRIED PROCEDURE. THE PRESIDENT WOULD BE REQUIRED TO REPORT TO CONGRESS EVERY 60 DAYS ON THE PROGRESS OF THE CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS.

TURKEY HAS BEEN PUT ON NOTICE PUBLICLY BY THE ADMINISTRA-

TION THAT IF CONGRESS RELAXES THE EMBARGO AND TURKEY  
"ADOPTS AN UNCONSTRUCTIVE OR INFLEXIBLE ATTITUDE" IN THE  
CYPRUS TALKS, THE ADMINISTRATION THEN COULD NOT SAVE  
TURKEY FROM RE-ENACTMENT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL EMBARGO.

INASMUCH AS THE PRESENT TOTAL EMBARGO HAS FAILED TO  
ADVANCE A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT, WE ARE DRIVEN TO THE CON-  
CLUSION THAT A MORE FLEXIBLE APPROACH SHOULD BE TRIED  
AGAIN. THE SENATE BILL CLEARLY GOES TOO FAR IN TOTALLY  
WIPING OUT THE SANCTIONS PROPERLY IMPOSED AGAINST TURKEY  
FOR LAST YEAR'S GROSS MISUSE OF AMERICAN ARMS. THE HOUSE  
BILL, WHILE HARDLY A PERFECT INSTRUMENT, IS AT LEAST  
CLOSER TO WHAT IS NEEDED. END TEXT. KISSINGER

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